(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No such demand has been received.

Accountability on Safety Issues

1157. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) why does the Commissioner of Rail Safety probe accidents with an air of secrecy and delays the submission of its report;

(b) whether the lack of accountability of the Railways on the issue of safety needs to be urgently addressed; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The statutory inquiries into the accidents by the Commissioner of Railway Safety are held after notifying date, time and venue in the press inviting persons having any information to give evidence. Preliminary reports are given within 10-15 days including provisional findings which are released to the Press. This is followed by a detailed report in about three months.

(b) and (c) Safety is given paramount importance on Indian Railways and every effort is made to prevent accidents. Acts of omission and Commission, if any, on the part of railway staff are taken up and responsibility fixed for lapses not only resulting into accidents but also detected during routine checks and inspections.

Exports from VSP

1158. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a policy to encourage export of steel from Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(b) whether it is a fact that the Port based Steel Plant at Vishakhapatnam has good scope for concentrating on export;

(c) the value of steel exported from VS.P. in 2002-2003 and 2003-04;

(d) whether VS.P. propose to produce and sell value-added steel products only; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) In a deregulated and decontrolled environment, the market strategy, including exports is primarily decided by the individual producers. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant) (RINL-VSP) has been taking several steps which, *inter-alia,* include upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity, improvement in quality of products and adoption of an appropriate product-mix to suit the requirements of the international markets. The company is also taking advantage of general measures being taken by the government, from time to time, to encourage exports. Being a port based steel plant, VSP has natural advantages for making exports. However, in view of the problems being reported with regard to domestic availability of steel products, the Ministry of Steel has advised RINL (VSP) to first meet the requirement of the domestic market before making exports.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) The value of exports during 2002-03 and 2003-04 are as follows:

Year	Value in Rs. Crs.
2002-03	621
2003-04	769

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.